

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend Paragraph 00013 as follows:

The aim of the invention, therefore, is to produce the brightest possible image at a given [partial word: German "ge"] with the simplest possible construction of the rod lens system and with a correction of the imaging error that is comparable to the prevailing state-of-the-art for this product. At the same time, the number of components as well as the production cost should remain low.

Please amend Paragraph 00014 as follows:

In accordance with the generic term of patent claim 1 to the invention, an image transmission system for rigid endoscopes has a center rod lens and two biconvex outer rod lenses, which are symmetrical to one another with respect to a center plane of the image transmission system that is perpendicular to the optical axis, and all lens elements consist of optically homogeneous material, all optically active surfaces are spherical, and two lens elements are cemented on both sides to the center rod lens, so that the resulting connecting lens is biconvex.

Please amend Paragraph 00015 as follows:

According to patent claim 1 the invention, the aforementioned aim of the invention is met by virtue of the fact that the rod lenses are vertex-to-vertex adjacent to one another and the center rod lens is basically equally long as the outer rod lens, or longer.

Please amend Paragraph 00016 as follows:

According to the generic term of patent claim 2 the invention, an image transmission system for rigid endoscopes has a biconvex center rod lens and two outer rod lenses

which are symmetrical to one another with respect to a center plane of the image transmission system that is perpendicular to the optical axis, and all lens elements consist of optically homogeneous material, all optically active surfaces are spherical, and the outer rod lenses are biconvex.

Please amend Paragraph 00017 as follows:

According to ~~patent claim 2~~ the invention, the aforementioned aim of the invention is met by virtue of the fact that one lens element is cemented to each of the outer rod lenses of the side turned inward, so that the resulting connecting lens is biconvex, the rod lenses are vertex-to-vertex adjacent to one another, and the center rod lens is essentially equally long as the outer rod lens, or longer.

Please delete Paragraph 00021.

Please replace the table in Paragraph 00024 with the following table:

Surface No. 1	Radius	Distance	Index of Refraction	Abbe Number
Intermediate Image	Plane	6.5	Air	
1	34.7	52.0	1.62	36.4
2	-34.7	0	Air	
3	53.5	2.5	1.57	57.5
4	-14.8	46.0	1.62	36.4
5	14.8	2.5	1.57	57.5
6	-53.5	0	Air	
7	34.7	52.0	1.62	36.4
8	-34.7	6.5	Air	
Intermediate Image	Plane	0	Air	

Please amend Paragraph 00025 as follows:

This embodiment can be modified as a second embodiment, as shown in Figure 7, so that the center symmetrical rod lens main element is produced as biconvex element (11), and meniscus elements (12", 13"), rather than convex lens elements, can be cemented to it. The center rod lens main element in this case can advantageously be produced similarly or even identically to the outer lenses.

Headlines

Please insert the following headline before paragraph 0001:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

Please replace the headline "Background of Invention" before paragraph 0002 with the following headline:

Field of the Invention

Please insert the following headline before paragraph 0003:

Background of Invention

Please insert the following headline before paragraph 00013:

Brief Summary of the Invention

Please insert the following headline before paragraph 00023:

Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a side view of the present invention using a biconcave center rod lens with cemented biconvex lens elements and two biconvex outer rod lenses.

Figure 2 is a side view of the present invention using a biconvex center rod lens and two outer rod lenses that are each convex at the outer end and concave on the inner end with a cemented biconvex lens element.

Figure 3 is a side view of the present invention using a biconvex center rod lens and two outer rod lenses that are each convex at the outer end and concave on the inner end with a meniscus lens element cemented on the outer end and a biconvex lens cemented on the inner end.

Figure 4 is a side view of the present invention using a biconcave center rod lens with cemented biconvex lens elements and two biconvex outer rod lenses, each with a meniscus lens element cemented on the inner end.

Figure 5 is a side view of the present invention using a biconcave center rod lens with cemented biconvex lens elements and two biconvex outer rod lenses, each with a meniscus lens element cemented on the outer end.

Figure 6 is a side view of the present invention using a biconcave center rod lens with cemented biconvex lens elements and two biconvex outer rod lenses with meniscus lens elements cemented on both ends.

Figure 7 is a side view of the present invention using a biconvex center rod lens with cemented meniscus lens elements and two biconvex outer rod lenses.

Detailed Description of the Invention